

HMO reform. Now basically these are the companies that spend millions of dollars successfully lobbying to kill any major health insurance reform a few years ago when the President put forward his plan. Well, now they are spending another \$2 million to make sure that people, that Republicans are returned to Congress who will continue to oppose HMO reform.

There is just some information here about how they are going about it, but this is a coalition and its member organizations from the health benefits coalition, and they are the ones that are essentially out there to make sure that Members are elected who are friendly to the health insurance industry and who will not be supportive of HMO reform.

But I want to say this:

This issue may be dead for this Congress, but it is not dead for the American people. This is the number one issue that Americans care about. It is the number one issue that is brought to my attention by my constituents, and I know that next year, when the new Congress begins, this issue is not going to go away, it is going to be out there as a significant issue once again. The public will be clamoring for reform because the problem is not going away. There is going to be more and more pressure, if you will, built up to do something about HMOs and to have these kind of patient protections.

So let us just rest assured we are going to be here again to deal with this, and even if Members of Congress are elected on some sort of platform because of what they owe to the insurance industry, that, you know, they cannot support this, I guarantee that the public is going to clamor for these patient protections and we are going to be back once again fighting for the patients bill of rights to make sure that it is passed in the next Congress.

#### CONGRESS FAILS TO ACT ON ISSUES AFFECTING OUR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. PALLONE, for setting the record straight on the patients bill of rights and managed care reform. But, Madam Speaker, my desire to be a Member of the Congress of this United States comes chiefly from wanting to help create a better world for my two daughters and all children. That is why this Congress' failure to act on so many bills and issues affecting our children is so frustrating and distressing to me and mothers across this country.

We talk a great deal about child abuse and neglect as a tragic crime that it is, but is not what the leadership of this House has failed to do on

children's issues also child neglect? It is a sad indictment that the 105th Congress, even in these waning hours, still has not passed the President's education initiative to ensure that our children will have smaller classes and more teachers, safe and sound school buildings, the tools they need to be successful in life and the after-school programs that are proven to reduce juvenile crime. This Congress has also neglected the needs of working or would-be mothers and their children by failing to provide safe child care and training for those who provide it.

As we go back to our districts to ask our constituents to give us another 2 years to represent them in Congress, what will we say to those mothers who after we Democrats turned back more of the draconian measures of welfare reform began to look forward with hope for training and jobs so that they can have a better life for themselves and their children. We can only tell them that their hopes are being dashed because this Congress, under Republican leadership, has failed them by not providing the child care they need.

Madam Speaker, the 105th Congress by not passing a real patients bill of rights has also failed to provide mothers with the security of knowing that when our children are sick or injured needed care will be there, that their doctors will be able to refer them to the specialists required or be able to make the necessary decisions to bring them back to good health.

In my own District of the Virgin Islands and the other territories the issue of health care in children care and children comes together at its worst. It would be a travesty, Madam Speaker, if we were to adjourn continuing to shortchange the children who live in the offshore areas of the United States by not giving them equitable funding under the children's health insurance program.

We must not go home at the end of this week leaving American children in the territories without health care coverage, especially when Medicaid in the territory is capped at levels that lock many outside of Medicaid's doors as well. Madam Speaker, it is un-American for any citizen to be treated unfairly or excluded from these basic programs because of where they live.

Dr. Marian Wright Edelman reminds us that service is the rent we pay for being here on earth. Unfortunately my colleagues on the other side have not been serving our children because of their failure to bring these bills to the floor, so they have not been paying their rent for being in this Congress, and the voters of this country will send them an eviction notice on November 3.

I call on all of my colleagues to start paying our rent by insuring that children have adequate child care, Head Start and after school care, that they are protected from those who would neglect and abuse them, that the care is put back into health care and that

their schools return to be the centers of learning and safe haven that they once were and that all America's children are treated fairly.

#### THE VALUES OF CONGRESS ARE POISON TO THE SENSIBILITIES OF THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Madam Speaker, the impasse between the Congress and the President has now held this great body in session 5 days beyond our planned adjournment date. The principle disagreement is a typical one of whether this Nation will redistribute greater portions of the taxpayers' wealth or devote it to debt relief and the people themselves. Our failure to resolve these matters has delayed us from returning to our home States, to our constituents, and most of all to our families.

A few days ago, I came to this floor and addressed the House on my thoughts about the public morals and of the Nation's character. I directed that address at my three daughters, and tonight I intend to express to the House my thoughts about my son, Justin, who is 9 years old and wondering, I am sure, why his dad has been gone so long. He knows, I think, the importance of the Nation's business in Congress, and he knows I would not remain away for trivial reasons.

Madam Speaker, it is significant that a major or portion of today's debate involves the issue of public education. I believe the Republican agenda is the proper one, to send more education authority to the States, to local schools and to every family. Our opponents have the opposite idea. Theirs is to expand the scope of the Federal Government in this important area, to federalize various aspects of a traditionally decentralized system.

Now their plan is to grow the size of the Federal Government at the expense of State and local autonomy and liberty, and I raise this issue, Madam Speaker, because the debate coincides with one of the most historic decisions this Congress must resolve, and that is the matter of impeachment of the same chief executive who would be charged with commanding the education authority in question.

Education is about values. Public education is about public values. And the education of America's children is about the future of human civilization and life on the entire planet.

As a father of four children, three of whom attend public schools, I will tell you this:

The last thing we should do is give the bureaucracy in this city more power to manipulate the Nation's local schools. The values of Washington, D.C., are poison to the sensibilities of the Nation. There is no one, no one at